

# The Semaphore

*A Publication of the* TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

Issue 208

Winter 2015



## Farewell to Café Divine

**See Page 4**

# THD 60TH ANNIVERSARY BLOCK PARTY

"IT WAS UPBEAT AND FUN! WE ARE ALL SO LUCKY TO HAVE SUCH A CONGENIAL NEIGHBORHOOD," EXCLAIMED A CALHOUN TERRACE RESIDENT.



A big crowd gathers for THD Block Party.

PHOTO BY MARKUS HAEUSSER

By Jen Haeusser

A diverse crowd turned out on September 21 for THD's 60th Anniversary Block Party. Neighbors of all ages, economic backgrounds and nationalities, along with their dogs, lingered throughout the festivities. North Beach firefighters, Captain David Lazar of Central Police Station and Supervisor David Chiu joined the mix.

The atmosphere was alive with the sounds of "We Are Family" and "Summertime" from the North Beach Brass Band. Stunning bay views from Calhoun Terrace and perfect overcast San Francisco weather set the stage.

That's not all! A taste of Telegraph Hill was presented by a smorgasbord of food from 18 local restaurants and stores. Deep-dish pizza, bruschetta, ravioli, clam chowder, dolma and sweet treats made for a delicious experience and the commemorative Coit Tower glass with a signature cocktail topped it off. San Francisco magician Heather Rogers, who performed for President Obama's inauguration, dazzled the crowd with her sparkling entertainment geared toward children and the kid at heart. For the grand finale, 50 of our beloved Telegraph Hill parrots landed on a nearby tree to the amazement of the crowd. The consensus describing the event was "Wow!"

This was not just any social event, but a time to say happy 60th birthday Telegraph Hill Dwellers! THD is

one of the oldest and largest neighborhood organizations in the nation. To think it all started over saving the 39-Coit bus! Some noteworthy accomplishments have been the restoration of Coit Tower, greening of the Hill and enactment of historic district legislation. Since it was founded in 1954, there have been six decades of celebrating, beautifying and protecting San Francisco's most unique and historic neighborhood. Last, but not least, we cannot forget the many social gatherings over the years which have helped to build friendships and create a sense of community.

In my research for this article, I realized that there has been a long tradition of social events on the Hill. In the 1950s, Telegraph Hill was the place to be. The Compound at the corner of Union Street and Calhoun Terrace was a collection of 12 small apartments on two levels where many a party was thrown and informal gatherings frequently took place. "San Francisco's Telegraph Hill" by David Myrick tells of a 1954 circus-themed street dance on Calhoun Terrace (costume required), a bazaar that was held on Napier Lane and other annual events.

THD has added to this tradition since its beginnings. In 1956, Silvio Cantolli began his annual Peach Blossom Festival at his house on lower Alta Street, Grace Marchant and Edith Hyler held open air concerts on the Filbert Steps and there were festivities at the

Old Spaghetti Factory (now Bocce Café) such as the 1966 Mardi Gras dance, supper and costume party. An old *Semaphore* boasts of THD's 10th anniversary party being a "rip-roaring success." Of course, who could forget the Upper Grant Avenue fairs?

From its origin, one of THD's objectives was "to encourage a friendly association among the Hill's residents." This is something I can personally attest to. After living on the Hill for less than three years, my husband and I have met countless neighbors. Being able to attend social events, meetings, and be a part of making a difference, has allowed us to become entwined with this timeless place. To us it's not just a neighborhood, but a village where you can know people and say hello to them as you walk the streets.

A week before the 60th Anniversary Block Party, I walked by Fog Hill Market and noticed that a poster advertising the event was in the window. It was taped beside another sign that said "Friendship Street." I thought how fitting this was, because bringing neighbors together was one of the main goals of the party. Yes, the food, drinks, music and entertainment were marvelous, but seeing the diversity of people come together and enjoy each other was priceless. Besides, this is what we really value most in life when it comes down to it, relationships are what matter!

continued on page 8-9



Commemorative cake.

PHOTO BY JULIE JAYCOX



Block buffet party.

PHOTO BY JULIE JAYCOX





By Tom Noyes  
Acting THD Treasurer  
treasurer@thd.org  
thdtreasurer@gmail.com

# TREASURER'S REPORT



We have been fortunate this year that special work by some of our members should let us finish the year close to on budget. Instrumental in that achievement was the commissioning and sales of the Coit Tower commemorative glasses,

which allowed us to throw such a wonderful block party. While I think a number of people were involved in making this happen, give a shout out to Jon Golinger for this!

We were also able to secure a donation to assist with this year's holiday party, which helped keep its cost down.

This is good news because our reserves are now less than one year's budget, which is not the recommended amount. We could do with a few years of small profits

to refresh the reserve, all in keeping with proper nonprofit practices.

We also desperately need candidates for the treasurer's position. Some computer skills and basic accounting are needed, but not much more than that. You can e-mail me to discuss it. Our nominating committee would welcome the help! Although I will be gone the later part of December, I will be back in January.



## THD BOARD MOTIONS

Prepared by Mary Lipian  
Recording Secretary

### July 2014 Motions

**MOTION:** Approval of proposed budget for April 2014 – March 2015.

**The motion passed.**

### August 2014 Motions

No board meeting was held in August.

### September 2014 Motions

**MOTION:** To fund cost of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers' annual block party from the Jack Early Fund to a net maximum of \$2,000.

**The motion passed.**

### October 2014 Motions

None.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT — SIGN SOMEONE UP!

By Tom Noyes  
THD Financial Secretary (aka Membership)  
membership@thd.org  
thdmembership@gmail.com

As you may already know, the Telegraph Hill Dwellers' membership count is about 560 with about 400 membership accounts. This is down about 40 percent from our high point 10-to-15 years ago.

One of the most beneficial ways to get new members is through recommendation from existing members. That is how you all can help. Most people can go

to the website and join online ([www.thd.org](http://www.thd.org)). If they would prefer a membership brochure, please contact membership with their mailing address and we will send one out!

Better yet, have a brochure on hand! They are always available at our events, so keep one or two to give out.

Also see the "Help" article in this issue of *The Semaphore*. There are some things you will learn in it to help membership in other ways.



## 415-THD-TEN-ELEVEN

In looking at some recent calls to our THD voicemail, we see that some of our members have called, but have left no messages.

Unfortunately, we cannot have someone in attendance on our voicemail. Please leave a message and ideally a convenient time to call you back along with your number (if you block them). We will try to get back to you in a reasonable time frame.

### THD Membership

THD Voicemail: 415-THD-Ten-Eleven (415-843-1011)

PS: By the way, there's no magic in knowing who has called. For the messages not blocking the phone number, we just checked against our membership records to see if the caller was a member or not.



### Recent monographs, Summer 2014:

Peter Zumthor, Backen Gillam & Kroeger, Aidlin Darling Design, Paul Rudolph, Charlotte Perriand, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Le Corbusier, Tadao Ando, Walter Pichler, Mickey Muennig.

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## Advertise in The Semaphore

If you let your neighbors know about your business we can work together to keep our voice in the neighborhood thriving. Take out an ad in *The Semaphore* for your business or service, or contact a business that you like and ask them to take out an ad. Here are our reasonable THD ad rates:

Business Card 2 X 3: one issue \$45 - one year \$155

Junior Ad 4 X 3: one issue \$80 - one year \$285

1/4 page 5 X 7 one issue \$145 - one year \$525

3/4 page 10 X 10: 1 issue \$265 - one year \$975

**Ad Sales contact person: Andy Katz at [Andy.Katz@thd.org](mailto:Andy.Katz@thd.org).**

Please contact Andy to place your ad or if you have questions and need more information.



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# REG THERIAULT DIES

## LONGSHOREMAN, AUTHOR OF BOOKS ON WORK

By Carl Nolte  
San Francisco Chronicle  
Published Fri., Feb. 28, 2014.  
Reprinted with permission from Carl Nolte

A crowd of working men and women will drink a couple of farewell toasts on Saturday during a memorial service at the Bayview Boat Club on the San Francisco waterfront for Reg Theriault, who was one of their own.

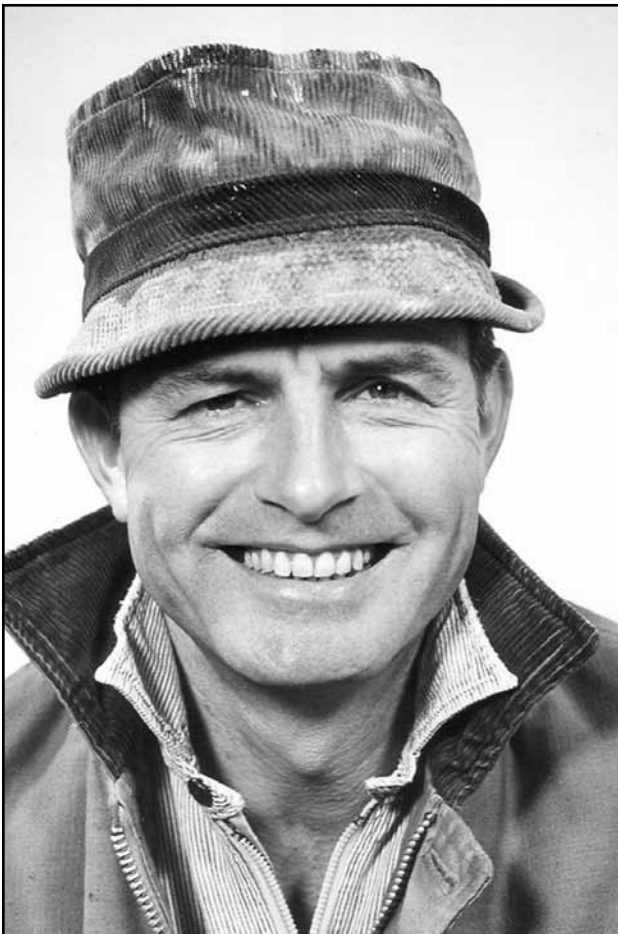
Mr. Theriault, who was at various times an itinerant farmworker, a college student, a longshoreman and the author of three books about working people, died of a cerebral hemorrhage Feb. 15 in San Francisco at the age of 89.

His most successful book, “How to Tell When You Are Tired: A Brief Examination of Work,” was widely praised when it appeared in 1995. Studs Terkel called it “absolutely wonderful.” Kirkus Review said it was “an enlightening report about the dignity of hard work.” The Chronicle said it was “delightful and absorbing.”

“He wasn’t one of those academics who wrote about work,” said his son, Thomas Theriault. “He did it.”

He noted that his father was born into a family of packinghouse workers who followed the fruit crops. They called themselves “fruit tramps.”

“They went from the northwest, to the Sacramento Valley, the San Joaquin, down to the Imperial Valley and sometimes to Texas,” the younger Theriault said.



Reg Theriault  
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE THERIAULT FAMILY

“It was a crazy life.”

It was also backbreaking work, but it had a dignity to it, which was the point of “How to Tell When You Are Tired” and his other books, “Longshoring on the San Francisco Waterfront” and “Unmasking America’s Working Class.”

Mr. Theriault wasn’t talking about sitting at a computer or talking on the phone, he was talking about hard, physical labor. He thought the workers deserved respect.

“Work is the cardinal fact of the working man and working woman’s existence,” he wrote.

Reginald Rodney Theriault was born in Seattle in 1924. His family moved so much that he attended dozens of schools, including Mission High School in San Francisco.

He also served as a U.S. Army paratrooper in World War II, and following the war, majored in English at UC Berkeley. He dropped out, and eventually became a longshoreman in San Francisco, unloading ships with a variety of cargoes, from bananas to coffee to cattle hides. He worked as a longshoreman for over 30 years and retired in 1993.

Mr. Theriault served as an officer of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 and was a member of the union’s negotiating committee.

He is survived by three sons, Thomas, Marcus and Raymond Theriault, all of San Francisco, and three grandchildren.



## REG THERIAULT, LOCAL 10 PENSIONER AND AUTHOR PASSES AWAY AT AGE 89

Published in the March 2014 issue of *The Dispatcher Newspaper*, voice of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU). Reprinted with permission of the ILWU.

On March 1st, hundreds of well-wishers gathered at the Bayview Boat Club on the San Francisco waterfront to offer a final toast to Local 10 pensioner, Reg Theriault, who passed away on February 15 at the age of 89. In addition to being a longshoreman, Theriault was an accomplished author of several books on work and the working class. His most successful book was, “How to Tell When You are Tired: A Brief Examination of Work.” It was widely praised and won acclaim from labor writer Studs Terkel, who called it “a classic.”

Theriault saw work as a basic human condition. His writing gave voice to men and women who perform manual labor. “Most of the people across the face of the earth are doing work, much of it hard work, most of

the days of their lives,” wrote Theriault in “How to Tell When You are Tired.” “By the time most kids are big enough or old enough or educated enough to get their first job, they are already conditioned...to pass beyond liking or disliking work to accepting it as inevitable.”

His other books included, “The Unmaking of the American Working Class,” which was recently translated into Korean, and “Longshoring on the San Francisco Waterfront.” Many books on work and workers have been written by academics. Theriault was a working-class intellectual whose perspective was informed by a lifetime of labor. He came from a family of “fruit tramps” — roving migrant farm workers, who sorted and packed fruit for shipment. After finishing a job, his family might drive hundreds of miles overnight for a job at the next orchard or farm.

Theriault proudly served as a paratrooper during the Second World War and was witness to the Japanese surrender aboard the USS Missouri. After the war, he attended Cal for a few years before dropping out and

eventually became a longshoreman in 1959. Theriault served as Vice President of Local 10, caucus delegate and member of the negotiating committee.

He lived in the North Beach neighborhood of San Francisco for over 40 years. In the late 1940s to the mid-1950s he rubbed shoulders with the era’s radical writers, beatniks and free-thinkers such as Lawrence Ferlinghetti, who gathered at City Lights Bookstore, Speck’s, Gino & Carlo’s and Vesuvio’s where Theriault worked as a bartender. He enjoyed diving for abalone while camping on the Mendocino coast and learned to snow ski with his children when he was 50.

Through his books and as an officer at Local 10, Theriault spent his life fighting for safer and better working conditions, increased benefits for fellow workers and promoting the dignity and value of labor.

He is survived by his three sons, Thomas, Marcus and Raymond and three grandchildren. He was proud of all of his sons who became union members with strong work ethics.



## LINA TORACCA

### MAINSTAY AT NORTH BEACH RESTAURANT, DIES

By Carl Nolte  
San Francisco Chronicle  
Published Thurs. Oct. 30, 2014  
Reprinted with permission from Carl Nolte

Lina Toracca was one of those people everyone in the neighborhood knew. She was not famous; she never got her name in the paper. But she was a part of the life of San Francisco’s North Beach, part of the texture of the place, like the Lombardy poplars on Washington Square, like the bells at SS Peter and Paul’s, the Big Italian church.

She died in San Francisco on Oct. 22 after a series of strokes and a long illness. She was 88.

Mrs. Toracca was a waitress at the U.S. Restaurant at Columbus Avenue and Stockton Street for 35 years. She usually worked the breakfast shift, starting just after 5 in the morning.

She was like everybody’s mother. She made sure you ordered the right breakfast — a hearty meal, ham and eggs, an omelet, something good and substantial, always served at the U.S. Restaurant with French bread on the side.

“She would say, ‘Sit down and be quiet. I’ll get your



Lina Toracca  
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TORACCA FAMILY  
food,” said her son, Giovanni. “They called her Mama.” The customers were always very formal with Mrs. Toracca. No one called her by her first name.

The place was always crowded — “old men, speaking Italian, who would go from there to sit for the day in Washington Square,” said Ken Maley, who lived in the neighborhood.

She was the perfect server, Maley said. “She never

wrote anything down. She remembered everything and always got it exactly right.”

On the other hand, she was all business. North Beach was pretty much an Italian community 40 and 50 years ago, a place they called the Little City with its own customs and rituals. The day Mrs. Toracca or one of the other waitresses at the U.S. Restaurant smiled at a customer was the day he or she had been accepted in North Beach.

Mrs. Toracca was born in Genoa, Italy, in 1926. She and her husband, Olinto, arrived in San Francisco in 1954 and settled in North Beach. “They were among the last wave of Italian immigrants to the city,” her son said.

Her first job was plucking chickens at a poultry operation on lower Broadway. She went to work at the U.S. Restaurant in 1963 and stayed there for 35 years.

She is survived by her son, Giovanni, who has owned several North Beach establishments, including the Condor nightclub; her daughter, Mariolina Andersen; and three grandchildren, all of San Francisco.





# DIVINE INTERVENTION NOT AN OPTION: LEASE RUNS OUT ON NEIGHBORHOOD LANDMARK

By Art Peterson

In 2004, when David Wright saw the “for lease” sign on the ground-floor space at the northeast corner of Union and Stockton, he sprang into action. For years he had been eyeing the venue for the cafe he wanted to open in this, the Dante Building. Furthermore, he knew just what he wanted to christen it: Café Paradisio, echoing the classic film. *Wait, not so fast.* Letters from lawyers poured in. Cease and desist. Café Paradisio is taken. David went to plan B. The venue would be Café Divine, one more take on the classic work of Dante Alighieri. The place soon became a community mainstay.

After 10 years, however, David has closed Café Divine, in response to a 30 percent rent increase. “I was ready to leave anyway, but I would have liked to have turned things over to the other guys.” That would be the team led by Chef David Wees, who has been with David from the beginning. But the figures did not pencil out for that David either.

Wright, a longtime neighborhood resident at Union and Taylor, has plans to travel with his wife now that the kids are out of the house and he is freed of his café responsibilities. He wants to go “just about everywhere.” After years of serving tourists, he thinks it’s high time he becomes one.

Café Divine was not David’s first restaurant venture. He was a partner in the now well-established La Mediterranee before deciding to go it alone at Café Divine. Restaurateur, however, was not David’s first chosen profession. He began his working life as the



Café Divine as it stood at the corner of Stockton and Union streets — Dec. 8, 2014  
PHOTO BY CATHERINE ACCARDI

drummer for the up-and-coming rock ‘n’ roll group the Flaming Grooves. When the group’s members were in England getting ready to embark on a 54-date tour they got the word: the tour had been canceled. “What do I do now?” David asked himself. The answer came when he hooked up with his future partners at La Mediterranee, the first step in a career of bringing fresh food with great ingredients at reasonable prices to San Francisco neighborhoods.

By moving into the Café Divine space, David became heir to a piece of North Beach history. Until 1985 the location had been occupied by Rossi Drugs (back in the days when Mr. Walgreen was just a flicker in his mother’s eye). Observe the tile floor, a holdover from the Rossi days. In the bathroom is Rossi’s old safe. One day, David called in a safecracker to unearth its contents. Alas, nada.

In 1987, Rossi turned the space over to the legendary Caffee Malvena. Malvena’s owners made the drug-store into a café by installing pizza ovens, ordering a custom-made bar of mahogany, maple and marble from Italy and hanging chandeliers worthy of a Venetian palazzo. All this remained part of Café Divine.

The café got off to a slow start. “We lost money the first year,” David says. But he has always been in tune with neighborhood needs. He made some changes, such as adding breakfast, that brought in some regulars, including “the toast ladies” — a group of Italian women who dropped in every Sunday after Mass at SS Peter and Paul Church.

David thinks a big part of Divine’s success has been the continuity of its staff. David Wees, learned to cook in the better restaurants of Omaha before relocating to San Francisco to work at venues such as I Garibaldi’s and PJ’s Oyster House. To those who know him, David Wees is known as “Stinky.” Short for Stinky LePeu, his moniker when he was performing with the rock group Buck Naked and the Bare Bottoms.

David’s pastry chef has also been with him for the

duration. “He’s Stanley Menja. He started as a dishwasher, but he was always observing. He’d be taking notes on the pieces of wax-paper.” He’s now a top-of-the-line creator of baked goods.

One other contributor to the mix is David’s brother, Wade Wright, the amiable man with the walrus mustache who many nights worked the front of the house. (Author’s note: If you can find me two siblings by the same mother and father that look less alike than Wade and David, I’ll buy you a drink at a neighborhood bar of your choice.) Wade’s primary employment is as the proprietor of Jack’s Record Cellar, one of the best places in the world to find vinyl 78s.

A unique feature of Café Divine has been David’s commitment to music at a time when live music venues are going the way of typewriters. Five nights a week, diners have enjoyed the talents of such established musicians as Dan Cantrel, Rob Reich, Chris Amberger and Craig Van Tresco. Music has been part of David’s life. That’s why he wanted it to also be part of his business.

Those of us who were in the neighborhood 10 years ago remember David’s soft opening. The Indonesian tsunami had devastated those islands, and David and then-THD president Paul Scott decided a fundraiser at Café Divine would be appropriate. It was a big success, the first of David Wright’s many contributions to the neighborhood.

In leaving, David wants to express his thanks to the community. “It’s been an honor being here. I think this is the best corner in the world.” Perhaps, unfortunately, David’s landlord seems to agree. ✂



Dan Cantrel plays the accordion at the Café Divine’s farewell - Nov. 30, 2014  
PHOTO BY ART PETERSON



David Wright behind the counter at Café Divine  
PHOTO BY ART PETERSON

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# THD CELEBRATES OUR CREATIVE NEIGHBORHOOD

THE BEAT GOES ON! MEET LOCAL. BUY LOCAL. READ LOCAL.

By Carol Verburg and Julie Jaycox

North Beach's fame as a writers' sanctuary got a new boost Sunday, November 23, at Naked Lunch on Broadway (where local artists used to eat, drink and talk at Enrico's) as a dozen authors displayed and read from their latest books.

An appreciative audience listened to: Art Peterson describing the origins of topless dancing in North Beach; Chris Carlsson (*The Semaphore's* paste-up guy with a dozen books under his belt) on a new society; Gary Kamiya reading from his book of San Francisco

stories that THD sampled at Canessa Gallery last month; Poet Laureate Jack Hirschman with a three-part poem; Mark Bittner sharing a section of his new autobiographical work in progress; Tom Noyes reading a reminiscence of Italy by his wife, Mary Tolaro-Noyes; C.J. Verburg with an excerpt from her latest Cape Cod mystery; Mike Madrid on female comic-book heroes (he has three books about them!); Jody Wiener, who (along with his own published writing) helped Nancy Calef write her personal and artistic odyssey; Renee Gibbons (who also sang!) on her journey from Dublin

to Lake Ponchartrain; and Terry Tarnoff giving us a new take on Indian rituals at the Ganges River. Everyone who bought a book also won a packet of fudge (with or without nuts) handmade by Tom Noyes. We also offered for sale David O. Myrick's book on Telegraph Hill published by THD. Our thanks to Ryan Maxey for his generous donation of Naked Lunch's space that afternoon, to Carol Verburg for help with strategy and to Barb Oplinger for designing the event poster. The event was organized by Jen Hauesser, Julie Jaycox and Tom Noyes.



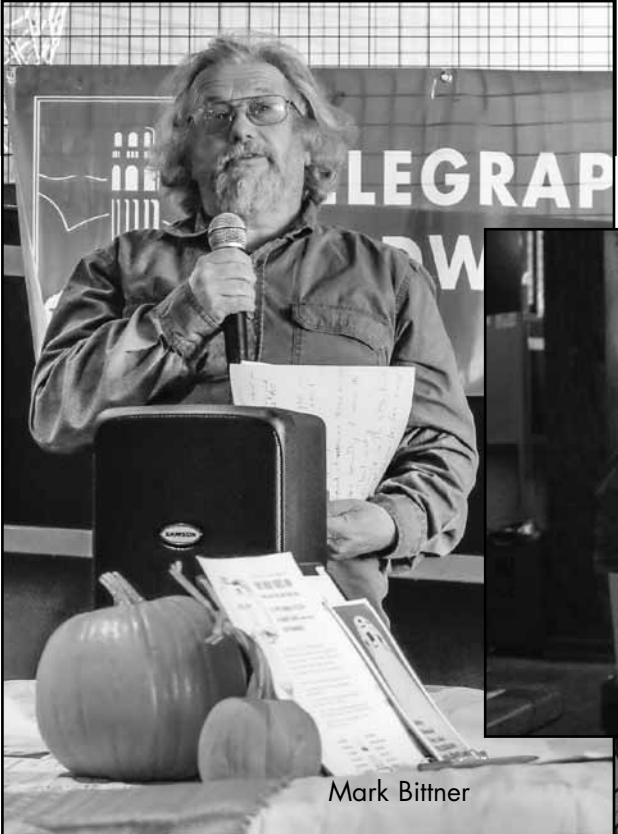
Jack Hirschman



"The Beat Goes On" Naked Lunch author event poster  
POSTER BY BARB OPLINGER



PHOTOS BY RICHARD ZIMMERMAN  
Art Peterson



Mark Bittner



PHOTO BY CAROL VERBURG



Renee Gibbons



(left to right) Carol Verburg, Mike Madrid, Terry Tarnoff



Chris Carlsson speaks at "The Beat Goes On" author event at the Naked Lunch



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# WATERFRONT COMMITTEE REPORT

## TIME IS RIGHT TO UPDATE WATERFRONT PLAN AND FIX THE PORT



By Jon Golinger  
Chair, Waterfront Committee

In 1990, San Franciscans approved Proposition H to require the Port of San Francisco to create, follow and regularly update a comprehensive *Waterfront Land Use Plan* to guide the stewardship of the city's unique and historic waterfront. Prior to this course correction, numerous waterfront development projects were considered in a piecemeal fashion driven by developers and political objectives rather than the public interest and comprehensive waterfront planning. This resulted in a series of failed waterfront development proposals and repeated clashes over out-of-scale and ill-conceived projects.

The voter-mandated Waterfront Plan was finalized after years of hard work by dedicated citizens, business leaders and port experts. After its adoption by the Board of Supervisors and Port Commission in 1997, the Waterfront Plan facilitated a renaissance along much of the waterfront. The removal of the Embarcadero Freeway after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake opened the door to new life for a restored Ferry Building. A beautiful ballpark approved by the voters has repeatedly shone a *Giant* national spotlight on the waterfront. Aging piers became the new home of the beloved Exploratorium educational and science center. The opening of a new world-class cruise terminal and waterfront park at Pier 27 created a new public space for all to enjoy.

Despite the positive achievements of the last two decades, the failure by the Port of San Francisco to comply with the voters' mandate in Proposition H that "*The Waterfront Land Use Plan shall be reviewed by the agency which prepared it or by such other agency designated by the Board of Supervisors at a minimum of every five years, with a view toward making any necessary amendments consistent with this initiative,*" has resulted in a stale and outdated plan that is so vague or overbroad as to provide no clear guidance. The Port has never engaged in a serious public effort to comply with Proposition H's regular review requirement. The Port has never reconstituted the Waterfront Plan Advisory Board or engaged in any similar level of public engagement or outreach to review the Waterfront Plan in a credible or comprehensive way. Instead, the Port has proposed and adopted limited amendments to the Waterfront Plan in order to facilitate specific projects.

Recently, the Port for the first time published a 200 page "review" of the Waterfront Plan. Unfortunately, the Port chose to create primarily a backward-looking compilation of activities rather than a deeply critical analysis or a clear vision for the future. The Port should take the next step to update the Waterfront Plan by requesting that the Board of Supervisors adopt an ordinance establishing an independent Waterfront



Pier 27 Park

PHOTO BY JON GOLINGER

Plan Task Force comprised of one citizen representative appointed by the district supervisor from each of the 11 supervisorial districts.

It will be the task force's job to ensure that the Waterfront Plan is updated in a comprehensive fashion and to conduct a Waterfront Plan review and propose updates every five years.

In Proposition H, the people established as official city policy that: "*it is poor planning to approve waterfront land uses on an ad hoc basis, rather than as part of a comprehensive waterfront land use plan.*" The entire premise of such a comprehensive plan is that it establishes a framework of rules that all stakeholders – city officials, citizen groups, labor, developers and all other interested parties – can read, understand and have confidence will be followed. Some of the most controversial and failed waterfront development projects in recent years have been the result of attempts by either a developer or the Port to stretch the Waterfront Land Use Plan too far to fit a bad project (such as the failed Mills Corp. Shopping Mall at Piers 27-31) or because the proposed projects were characterized as "unique opportunities" that somehow deserved special treatment, rule waivers, or legal exemptions even though they blatantly violated the Waterfront Plan (such as the failed Warriors' stadium and luxury condo project at Piers 30-32).

As the experience with the failed Warriors' project at Piers 30-32 demonstrated, just because the mayor and powerful interest groups decide they want to build something on the waterfront does not mean the Port should throw the Waterfront Plan out the window and write a new set of rules to accommodate it. If the Port creates a set of special rules for so-called "unique opportunities" as the draft review proposes, that will morph into the exception that becomes the rule, as every developer will characterize their proposal as a "unique opportunity" requiring special exemptions. The rules will only work to shape our waterfront in a thoughtful

and well-planned way, if they apply to everybody.

The problem with port development that has recently led to a series of high-profile failed developments and voter rejection of the Port's plans in three waterfront ballot measure votes (the defeat of 8 Washington with the rejection of Propositions B and C in November 2013 and the requirement for voter approval of all waterfront height-limit increases with the passage of Proposition B in June 2014) is not that the Port's development plans have moved too slowly, but that they have been so dramatically disconnected from what San Franciscans want on to see on the waterfront. The Port should drop proposals to create a new process that would enable piecemeal waterfront planning or would pursue ways to expedite projects by short-circuiting public review. Instead, the Port should devote time and resources to working with the community and the Board of Supervisors to establish

an independent Waterfront Plan Task Force that could lead a comprehensive, credible and regular review and update of the Waterfront Plan.

Regarding financial investments in the waterfront, the voters were asked in 2008 and 2012 to make a financial investment in beautifying the waterfront. Voters responded by approving parks bonds that included millions of dollars to build waterfront parks and open space. This and approval of a well-planned project for Pier 70 (Proposition F passed with 72 percent of the vote) are clear indications that the people view the waterfront as just as much a part of our city as Golden Gate Park, the cable cars and Coit Tower.

With just 10 percent of port land left for potential development, according to the Port, it is clear that the Port will never be able to develop its way out of debt and into financial stability. The time is ripe for the Port to move away from this short-term, development-driven budget approach and engage with the people to find solutions to the Port's fiscal needs. The Port should ask the voters, as well as visitors to our city and the many businesses and professionals who benefit from a beautiful and vibrant waterfront, to participate in investing in the waterfront's future. The Port should pursue a stand-alone Waterfront Parks and Recreation Bond in the next possible election to fund open space and active recreation to replace parking lots and aging piers. The Port should ask cruise ship passengers entering the new Pier 27 cruise terminal and visitors to Fisherman's Wharf and the Giants' ballpark to make donations to help beautify and preserve the piers and waterfront they have come to enjoy. The Port should engage the business community to develop a fund for waterfront restoration and preservation because the city's offices, shops, restaurants and professionals all benefit from a waterfront that is available around the clock for all to enjoy.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP THD!

by Tom Noyes  
THD Financial Secretary (aka Membership)  
Acting THD Treasurer

Although our by-laws indicate the responsibilities of certain board members and our standing committees, in the modern age and with our organization's size, there are many "hidden" jobs that are necessary to keep the organization going. Most do not require full-year commitments and only small amounts of time. However, they can help to tremendously reduce the load on some chairs and board members.

Today most are done by a few people adding on to their by-law job requirements. It's amazing what a

couple of hours, at most, a month can do to assist positions such as *Semaphore* Editor, Membership, Treasurer and Social Chair, in addition to our standard committee chairs and members. The by-laws, written in 1954, did not plan for some of these jobs, or the membership was low enough to make it much easier to do. Now our growth needs help to support it. As you will see, many of these jobs can be done at almost any time at your convenience. All expenses associated with these tasks are reimbursed by THD, although most involve little, if any, expense. Special materials (preprinted envelopes, inserts, etc.) are all provided.

I've tried to group by general area in case one is of

most interest to you! You can e-mail [membership@thd.org](mailto:membership@thd.org) with interest in any of these and I will connect you to the appropriate person. Thank you in advance!

**Semaphore Ad Sales:** Do you like to talk to local business owners? Takes some time to go around and try to encourage local businesses to advertise in *The Semaphore*. More than one person can help with this!

**Semaphore Ad Maintenance:** We need to bill owners of ads quarterly. About a quarter of the approximately 20 ads are due every three months. It helps to contact them and see if they want to change their ad text or image. This requires minimal coordination with ad sales or the

*continued on page 11*





Pelicans soaring

PHOTO BY JUDY IRVING



# PARKS, TREES & BIRDS REPORT



By Judy Irving and Carlo Arreglo  
Co-chairs, Parks, Trees & Birds Committee

**P**elicans soar around Telegraph Hill every day, hugging the city's waterfront, heading from their favorite roost spot in Alameda to go fishing outside the Golden Gate. I'm pleased to announce that my new feature documentary, "Pelican Dreams," shot here in the Bay Area and from Baja California to the Columbia River, premiered this fall and is now flying out to theaters coast-to-coast. If you check [www.pelicandreams.com](http://www.pelicandreams.com) you'll see the trailer, press clips and a list of theaters where it's booked. If you have friends in these cities, please alert them to these openings. I'm very grateful to my fellow Hill Dwellers, who helped me finish this six-year nonprofit project. It's all "for the birds!"  
—Judy Irving

**D**id you know that more than 100 species of birds have been seen on, around and from Telegraph Hill? Some 30-plus species were seen recently by participants in the monthly Golden Gate Audubon Society field trip held on Telegraph Hill. November's walk began with birders dodging runners. Unbeknownst to me, an Urbanathlon included Coit Tower and Telegraph Hill as part of its race and Telegraph Hill Boulevard was closed to vehicles. Runners were everywhere. Fortunately, the group took them in stride and we had a productive, birdy morning with 34 species sighted. Highlights were Brown Creeper, Northern Flicker, Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwings and nice, close looks at a White-throated Sparrow.

After the walk, a few of us went to Ferry Park where we saw another White-throated Sparrow. Not much at Sydney Walton Square, but I was shocked to see that two of the large stone pines had been reduced to stumps, taking away potential nesting sites for what I suppose are safety reasons. Even so, it was a great day to be outside with an energetic and friendly group of birders. One of them asked me to look over her species list to submit to *eBird* (of which more later) and I was reminded that we were not just birding, but also participating in citizen science.

Citizen science, as described in the California Academy of Science's website, is a "global movement through which scientists and non-scientists alike make observations, collect data, and help answer some of our planet's most pressing questions." I would add that citizen science is very much a granular movement, taking place at the neighborhood level where anyone can participate. I enter all of the Telegraph Hill field trip sightings into *eBird*, a real-time online checklist program run by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. Our sight-

ings help build data on bird distribution and abundance in San Francisco and beyond. If you're not avian-inclined (join my walk and maybe you'll change your mind?), *iNaturalist* is a fun and convenient tool to enter observations of plants, flowers, trees, mammals, insects, fungi and more.

A grassroots *BioBlitz* is also a great, hands-on, community-based approach to learning about the local flora and fauna. Participants will record observations of as many organisms as possible, learn to upload the data to a smartphone app and conclude with a wrap-up session where we summarize some of the highlights. Don't worry about identifications! If you know what something is, excellent! If not, the whole point of uploading photos is to share and learn with online communities. Keep your eyes and ears open during the next few months as I organize what I believe will be Telegraph Hill's first ever *BioBlitz*! For those interested in learning more about birding and citizen science, you can attend my monthly walks or contact me at [arregloc@gmail.com](mailto:arregloc@gmail.com). The following sites are informative as well:

- <http://www.ebird.org/content/ebird/about/>
- <http://www.calacademy.org/citizen-science-0>
- <http://www.nerdsfornature.org/bioblitz/>

All the best birding!  
—Carlo Arreglo



Can you guess what kind of hawk this is? Please e-mail your answer to [films@pelicanmedia.org](mailto:films@pelicanmedia.org).  
PHOTOGRAPH BY JUDY IRVING



Golden Gate Audubon Society November field trip participants at the Coit Tower south lawn.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF CARLO ARREGLO



# TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS'

continued from page 1



Dancing to the tunes of the North Beach Brass Band

PHOTO BY JULIE JAYCOX



Katherine Petrin & Gary K

PHOTO BY JULIE JAYCOX

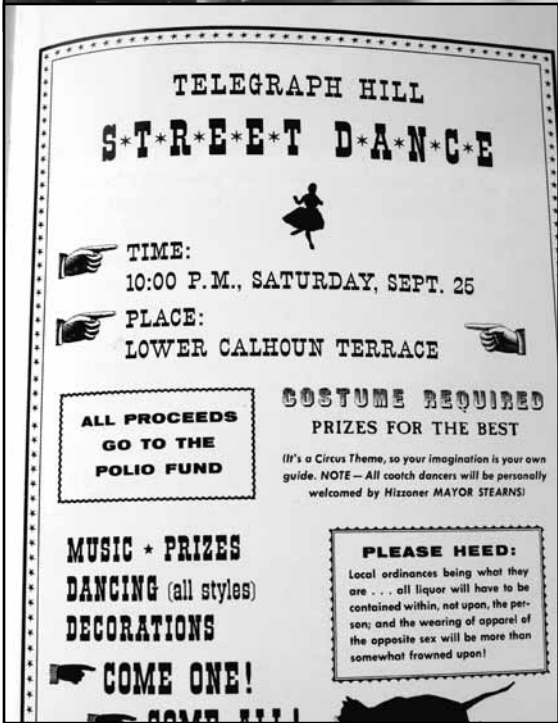
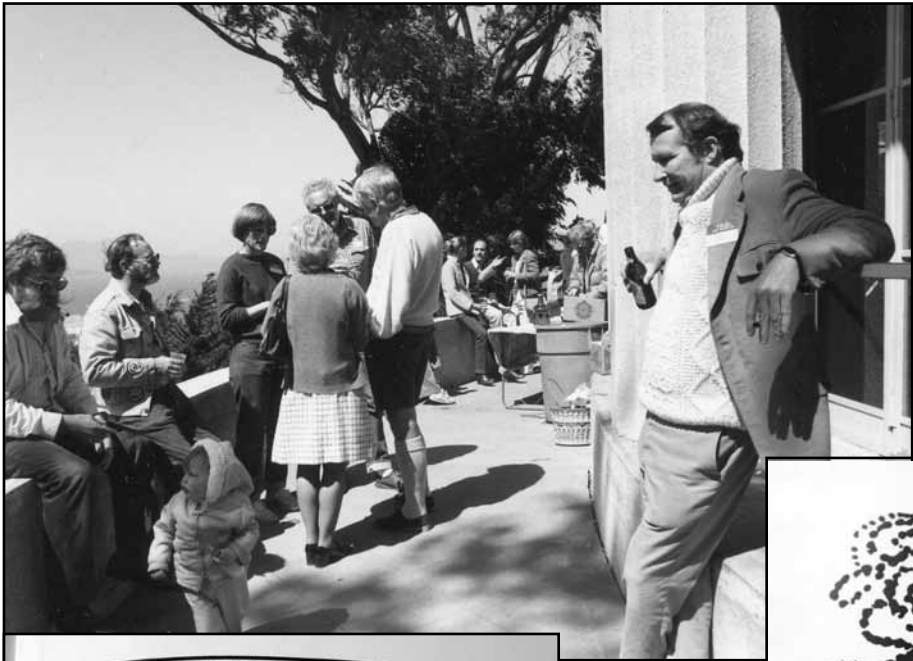


(left to right) Tom Noyes, Paul Webber, Captain David Lazar

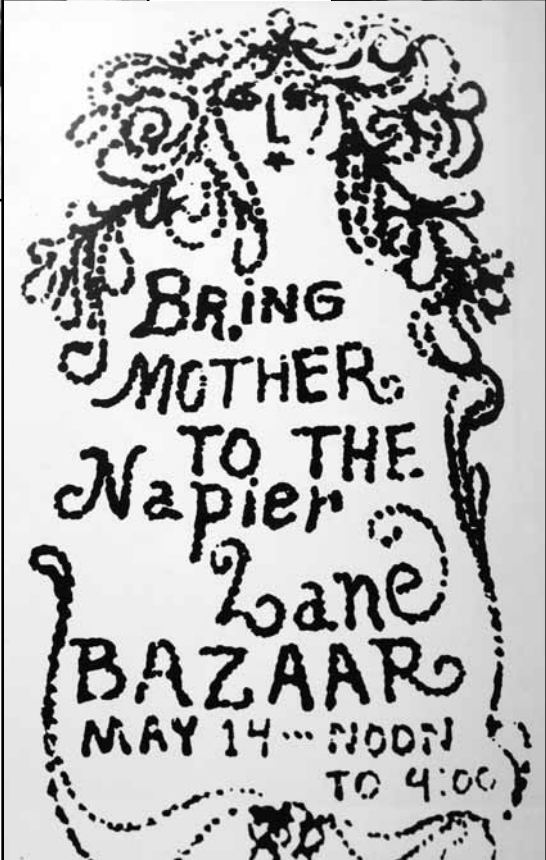


Children with m

Magician Heather Rogers.



THD parties from days gone by... 1980s at Coit Tower (above), others advertised by local posters (left and right)



Jen Haeusser greets a neighbor.

PHOTO BY JULIE JAYCOX



# 60TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY



Kamiya. PHOTO BY JULIE JAYCOX



North Beach Brass Band.



magic balloons. PHOTO BY JULIE JAYCOX



(left to right) Mrs. Lazar, Police Captain David Lazar, and Morgan St. Clair from SAFE



Jen Haeusser with flowers and party supplies. PHOTO BY MARKUS HAEUSSER



Julie Jaycox and volunteer Lexi. PHOTO BY MARKUS HAEUSSER



Jon Golinger with the commemorative Coit Tower glasses. PHOTO BY MARKUS HAEUSSER





# RESTAURANT REVIEW



## THE 21ST CENTURY MEETS CHINATOWN

By Carol Peterson

### Begoni Bistro

615 Jackson St.  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
415-757-0120

Open 7 days a week – 11a.m.-3p.m. and 5p.m.-10p.m.

While walking in Chinatown recently, I noticed a chic new restaurant, one that with its contemporary ambience could have been transported next to Tadich Grill on California Street. Why was this classy looking place among the serviceable, but generic, hostelrys of Chinatown? When I met Begoni's Executive Chef Jimmy Kwok I found out. He told me that he and partner Ming Duong picked the location and design because "We wanted to stand out. We think Chinatown needs a fresh start." According to Jimmy, they have already made a difference. "Several restaurants are considering remodels after seeing us."

Why the name Begoni? The word refers to a sea flower. Jimmy thinks it reflects his cooking style, which is rooted in Vietnamese and French cooking filtered through his adaptations.

Jimmy learned cooking from his mother, starting at the age of 7. Living in Hanoi with the French, Jimmy would carry catered food to the international embassies. By 1977, under the communists, Hanoi was too dangerous for Jimmy, and he escaped by boat to Hong Kong, eventually ending up in Philadelphia. Later, when visiting San Francisco, he never went back. He says, "I am on a permanent vacation after 30 years."

The chic and pleasant ambience is only the start of the excellence at Begoni. At this family-owned business, the food is special and promptly served. I have my favorites.

Of the appetizers, I was intrigued by the Green Papaya Salad with Beef Jerky (\$9). It is served Hanoi style. That means cutting back on the fish sauce and adding a unique ingredient — beef jerky. A hint of mint tops off this flavorful dish. Jimmy said, "The people of Hanoi enjoy this refreshing snack before they go to the theater or other outing."

My favorite dish at Begoni (and it was not easy to pick a favorite) was the Roasted Squab (\$19). It was crispy, moist, juicy and succulent. I usually avoid ordering squab because many times it is dry. Not at Begoni. Jimmy's secret is marinating the tiny fowl in salt, pepper and lime for four hours. Then it is roasted in a very hot oven for a short time and served over caramelized onions and golden raisins. The combination is a perfect mixture of ingredients and timing. The dip of lime, salt and pepper is simple, but changes the taste immensely. This is a dish that can be shared by two people.



Executive Chef Jimmy Kwok.



Begoni Bistro entrance

ALL PHOTOS: CAROL PETERSON

If chicken soup sounds like an uninspired choice, you haven't tried Jimmy's. He caramelizes onions, shallots and ginger, then adds them to a pot of cold water that includes rice white wine, fish sauce and rock sugar (rock sugar because Jimmy only uses natural ingredients). The water is heated to boiling, which incorporates the pungent flavors. The chicken is added (only free range), cooked for a short time, pulled out and deboned. The bones go into the broth, are taken out, then chicken and noodles added. He tops it with a sprinkle of fresh herbs. The result is the most clear, subtle, chicken soup I have ever tasted. It is not busy. You could eat it every day and never tire of it.

Of the Vermicelli Salad Wraps, the Bun Cha Ca Thang Long (\$15) was excellent, full of special flavors. The herbed, seared fillet of sole is served on a sizzling, island platter with sautéed dill, onion, peanuts and shallots and the unique flavoring of turmeric. The wrap is accompanied by a large platter of very fresh lettuce and fresh herbs so you can pick what to add when you make your wrap. Again, the simple sauce of salt, pepper and fresh lime is perfect for dipping.

For vegetarians, Garlic Eggplant with Green Bean (\$8) is the right choice. The eggplant is sliced into long pieces and sautéed with sweet-and-sour bean sauce, garlic, ginger, chili and scallions. It's a spicy dish and full of wonderful flavors.

If you are looking for a melt-in-your-mouth meat dish, the Bo Luc Lac (\$19 Dinner) will not disappoint. Jimmy buys all of his products locally, including meat

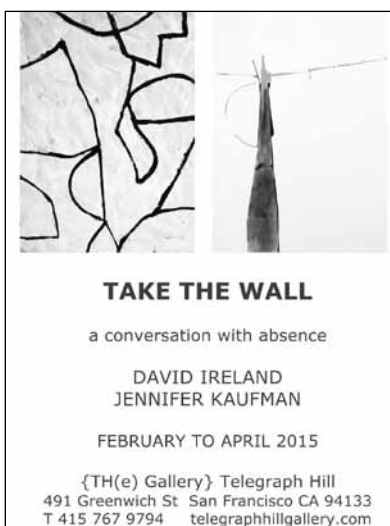


Bun Cha Ca Thang Long-Vermicelli Salad Wraps.

from Golden Gate Meats. The filet mignon is marinated in Worcestershire sauce, garlic, olive oil and *herbes de Provence*, a preparation that underscores the French influence in his cooking. The meat is sliced into small chunks and sautéed with purple onions. The flavors of the succulent, juicy, tender meat dance on your tongue. Al dente Garlic noodles are the perfect addition.

The only dessert served at Begoni is a flan. At Begoni you don't get the typical flan, with crunchy top and creamy custard. Instead their flan has a scrumptious, spongy texture and finishes with a beautiful vanilla sauce. Enjoy.

This new restaurant is the face of Chinatown's future and Jimmy Kwok and the Duong family will be remembered as the people who had a vision. ✦



## 'TAKE THE WALL' ABOUT THE EXHIBITION ~

Aside from featuring David Ireland's works on paper and Jennifer Kaufman's wall drawings, the exhibition will incorporate the history of Telegraph Hill and the semaphore on the drawings. Jennifer's site-specific work will explore the concept of communicating with absence ... the absence of David, the absence of the semaphore, the history of the gallery's location as the original site of the first African American Baptist Church west of the Rocky Mountains.



# NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT



By Mike Madrid

Chair, Neighborhood Safety Committee

No one likes to talk about crime, but it's good to have the facts to reduce the possibility of becoming a victim of criminal activity. First, the good news — violent crime is still relatively low in the North Beach/Telegraph Hill area. However, burglary is a problem in our neighborhood. Captain David Lazar of Central Station says that the biggest problems we have are "crimes of opportunity," when thieves can get easy access to people's homes. In many cases, these types of crimes can be prevented. At a time when many of us are making New Year's resolutions, here are some safety tips to add to your list for 2015.

Let's talk about the layout of our neighborhood. We all love the distinctive character of Telegraph Hill and North Beach. After all, that's why most of us came here and continue to stay here. Many of us live in locations that most people would consider unique, whether it's a narrow alley or a row of cottages on a steep staircase. It's important to remember that many of these areas are not accessible to cars, *including* police cars. We all want to feel that the police are protecting us, but we have to keep in mind that many of us live in places Central Station officers can't monitor on a regular basis from their vehicles. Because of current staffing chal-

lenges, it's not possible for foot patrol officers to cover every area of the neighborhood, especially some of the more remote ones. So, we all have to make some smart choices to protect ourselves.

Winter is the best time to prune trees and bushes, and is a good crime deterrent. Overgrown bushes provide places for criminals to hide around your home. If the landscaping in your area is too big a job for you to handle, consider organizing some of your neighbors in a work party, as the residents do on the Vallejo Steps Garden. The police always say criminals avoid the light. Well-maintained trees and bushes help reduce the sorts of dark areas thieves love to hide in. If there is a burned out streetlight in your area, call 311 to have it replaced. Getting streetlights repaired can sometimes require a number of follow-up calls by residents, but it's worth the effort. Some of the more remote areas of the neighborhood are also hard to illuminate with conventional streetlights. That's why you should look at the lighting around your property and consider adding whatever is needed to make your home safer. If you don't like having a light on all of the time, there are several models of motion-detector lights available.

If home improvements are in your plans for 2015, remember to safeguard your house. Scaffolding can provide thieves easy access to your home, so make sure

that windows are locked

when you are not at home, and especially at night. Thieves have been known to enter houses via scaffolding while residents are asleep. If you are having work done at your house, make sure that your contractor is not allowing any unwanted persons to enter your property.

The most basic thing that you should always do to protect your home is lock your doors. We all like the small-town feeling that we have here in our neighborhood. Unfortunately, thieves are often watching and are aware which doors have been left unlocked. If you are unsure about upgrading your home security, you can schedule a free consultation with San Francisco SAFE. They will provide you with a report with low-cost recommendations for making your home more secure. SAFE can also help you and your neighbors set up a Neighborhood Watch group. More information can be found at [sfsafe.org](http://sfsafe.org).

Lastly, get to know your neighbors. The best way to prevent a crime in your home is to be aware of what is going on in your area. Sharing information with your neighbors is a great way to stay informed and you may make some new friends in the process. ♦

## How You Can Help THD! *continued from page 6*

treasurer. Payments are handled by the treasurer.

**Semaphore Manual Distribution:** Occasionally advertisers or other people need copies of *The Semaphore* for various purposes. You must pick up extras copies from *The Semaphore* editor quarterly and provide them to these people. It's surprising how many we do!

**Semaphore Articles:** Although *The Semaphore* does not lack for content each quarter (some submissions are carried over to future issues), have you ever thought, "Gee, why isn't there an article about that?!" It can be a lot of fun to research and pull together the information for an article and editing help is available, if you need it. If you are interested in submitting articles for *The Semaphore* and would like a copy of our submission guidelines, contact the editor at [Catherine.Accardi@thd.org](mailto:Catherine.Accardi@thd.org).

**Membership Mailing:** Stuffing envelopes and mailing. Ideal if you can print labels (page or two at a time) at your house. Materials (envelopes, stamps, inserts) are provided. When I first became Membership chair in 1999 there was a helper for this (thanks!). It would help any membership chair significantly!

**Social Mailing:** We still have nearly 60 members without e-mail addresses and almost all events of THD are mailed to them. Usually postcards, but often use membership materials. Also helps if you can print the labels. Usually the insert or postcards are created by the event organizer.

**Social RSVPs:** Keep track of RSVPs for an event. If a paid event, get payments from mailbox and deposit to bank and inform treasurer. Treasurer forwards any PayPal payment information. Sometimes check THD voicemail, if just for voice reservations. Let event organizers know count for planning.

**Social and Event Planning:** Just helping with even one event can alleviate the load on a few people tremendously. There are many different ways to help! Help plan, setup, tear down, etc. Have an idea for event? Help put it on! Volunteering time at an event to man a table or other services helps a lot.

**THD Phone Coverage:** Cover our voicemail at THD-Ten-Eleven (415-843-1011) and route messages to appropriate people. Doesn't take much time, but helps to get prompt responses to callers.

**Archive Management:** We used to have someone who knew what we had and when we needed something, we could usually get it. This role would monitor the archive contents and help people get access. Some contents of archives: past *Semaphores* and board packages, David Myrick's Telegraph Hill books and T-shirt/hoodie inventory, event supplies (surprising how much we have!).

**Web Maintenance:** Updating web for events, announcements, etc. Put up pictures and *Semaphores* (year after issued). It would be nice to have two or three people who can do this.

**E-mail Communication:** Formatting and proofing, sending. We have a service where all the e-mails are kept, but it takes some time to get correct and to format. Work with Web maintainer as we usually place in both places! It would be nice to have a backup person here, too!

PS: Some of these roles need restricted information to membership or other data necessary to perform the function. The associated board member provides just the information to do the job. Usually this is Membership. ♦

## The Lilly Hitchcock Coit Memorial Literary Society

meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. For more information, contact Carol Peterson at 956-7817.

## FRIENDS OF WASHINGTON SQUARE

Meet on the 2nd Tuesday every month, with work parties in the Square every quarter. See website for times, dates, locations.

[www.friendsofwashingtonsquare.com](http://www.friendsofwashingtonsquare.com)

## Fog Hill Market

Hanna Chedyak

415-781-8817

1300 Kearny

San Francisco, CA 94133

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# WELCOME TO OUR NEW NEIGHBOR, *PARTIES THAT COOK!*

By Marilee Gaffney

**B**ibby Gignilliat, a long-time alum of Tante Marie's and founder and CEO of Parties That Cook, has taken over Tante Marie's space at 271 Francisco St. and is now open for business!

Bibby has said that her business is a direct offshoot of what she learned in Tante Marie's professional training, and she was also a teacher there for three years. She is thrilled to have the chance to take over the legendary venue and to carry on the culinary tradition at Tante Marie's.


Bibby pioneered the mobile cooking party concept in 1999, and her company has staged culinary corporate team-building events, private parties and group-cooking events throughout the Bay Area, Chicago and Portland. They will have events and cooking classes at the Tante Marie location as well as continuing to operate their mobile events throughout the Bay Area.

If you'd like more information, you can visit [www.PartiesThatCook.com](http://www.PartiesThatCook.com) or call 1-888-907-2665.

Parties That Cook at 271 Francisco St.  
PHOTO BY MARILEE GAFFNEY



## ***Thanks, North Beach, for your support as we approach our 5th anniversary!***



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(415) 835-9888  
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Wednesday-Saturday 12pm - 11pm  
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***Please present ad for 10% off of all food, Offer expires 12/31/14***

# AND THE AWARDS GO TO . . .

## Heritage of the Hill Award to Café Jacqueline

For the past 35 years, Madame Jacqueline Margulis, who emigrated from Bordeaux, France, has whipped up egg whites to create scrumptious soufflés. Locals and visitors alike adore Café Jacqueline, a hidden, romantic gem nestled in a historic storefront on Upper Grant Avenue. The warm atmosphere and Madame Margulis' charm are part of the enduring fabric and charm of North Beach and Telegraph Hill.

Although hard to believe, since opening the café in 1979, chef Jacqueline has prepared soufflés on almost 10,000 nights — and has personally cracked more than a million eggs (yes, we did the math) to turn out thousands of perfect sweet or savory soufflés.

Café Jacqueline is only the second business to occupy the ground-floor space at 1454 Grant Ave., originally a shoe store. If you haven't tried it, find out what you've been missing. Dinner soufflés serve two, and choices

include asparagus, mushroom, spinach, asparagus and salmon or lobster, each with a cheese base. Dessert soufflés include heavenly sugar-dusted Grand Marnier, strawberry, raspberry or chocolate.

While you're there, peek into the tiny kitchen to see Chef Jacqueline,



Jacqueline Margulis receives her award

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FAMILY



Madame Jacqueline Margulis

PHOTO BY DENNIS HEARNE

puffed cap askew, melting chocolate in copper pans and reaching for an egg from an enormous wooden bowl full of them.

Telegraph Hill Dwellers was honored to present Madame Jacqueline Margulis with its "Heritage of the Hill Award" at our annual holiday party at Original

Joes on December 6. Thank you, Madame Margulis, for your hard work over the last third of a century. Café Jacqueline is truly a living treasure of North Beach and Telegraph Hill.



Dave Franzoia COURTESY DAVE FRANZOIA

## Public Service to the Hill Award to Dave Franzoia

His secret weapon? A burlap sack. "Bada bing, bada bang, bada boom." That's Recology's beloved local garbage man — or refuse disposal specialist — Dave Franzoia, who for the last 20-plus years has been hauling trash, recycling and compost up and down the stairs and alleys of Telegraph Hill.

Earlier this year, our own Joe Rosato, Jr. captured it perfectly on a 3-minute segment on NBC Bay Area. "You just put it out of your head, you just do your job," the veteran Recology garbage collector said. Franzoia, 54, enjoys his job — he even asked for this route — one of the most difficult in the city. It has taken a toll on his body. Once he slipped and fell down a flight of steps. He's known Telegraph Hill all his life. His uncle used to walk him around the Hill as a kid and his great grandfather came to San Francisco in 1909 and started working for Sunset Scavenger Company, later Golden Gate Scavengers (now Recology).

Dave still makes his own homemade wine like the Italians of old North Beach. He will have been collecting our refuse for 30 years and 10 months when he retires next year. Telegraph Hill Dwellers was pleased to honor Dave Franzoia with its "Public Service to the

*continued on page 15*

# LAUGHTER ON THE HILL

By Margaret Parton

(Excerpted and edited by William Pates)

We are continuing the adventures of Margaret Parton, whose 1945 memoir, "Laughter on the Hill," is a North Beach classic. In this episode, Margaret is reminded that nothing is going to be the same . . .

## Nothing's Going to Be the Same

San Francisco conversation seemed at first the fulfillment of my dreams. Poetry, music, art, these were our subjects, far more real, far more important than various systems of government, any presidential speech, any talk of free trade or world markets. I used to marvel at the way Californians could spend hours analyzing the manners and morals of absent friends.

Nevertheless, the world catches up to you. Things kept happening "out there" (as we always thought of any territory east of the Rockies), and I couldn't ignore them. England besieged and Russia invaded, persecution in Europe and the spreading poison of racial prejudice in America, the growing power of reactionaries in Washington, our State Department and Vichy . . . but it all seemed very far away, very unreal, even for me, who daily endured the shoddy San Francisco newspapers with their front page exclamation marks. For my friends, who never looked at a paper, never listen to a radio broadcast, or read one of the Eastern newsmagazines, these problems hardly existed. They seemed to move through a timeless dream, and although the daily papers shook me and made me long for the heavy hitting political discussions I had once scorned, I was still willing to share the dream.

One December morning, with the sun washing over my bed and the crisp air blowing the smell of eucalyptus through the open window, I awoke late, stretched and yawned luxuriously with the sleepy happiness of waking up in San Francisco, and switched on the radio for music to suit my mood. There it was — springing from my radio with the ugliness of a long bottled demon.

"Pearl Harbor," the announcer panted. "Oahu . . ." I had never heard of Pearl Harbor or Oahu, but when he said Hawaii I knew what it meant. I ran to the phone and called up Charles Stuart.

"Charles!" I cried. "They've bombed Oahu!"

"Where the hell is that?" he asked sleepily.

In Ha-Hawaii," I stuttered. "They'll probably be

bombing us next!"

"Come on over and have a beer," Charles said. "This is probably the end of everything . . . nothing's going to be the same from now on."

On the way over to Charles' I met Vicky Pike, her blonde roommate Pauly and some of their friends. They hadn't been listening to the radio and I told them the news. The others stood in stunned silence, their mouths gaping open, but Pauly was always equal to any occasion. She leaned against the white wall of a corner building, stretched out her arms in supplication, and raised her face toward heaven.

"Oh, beautiful for spacious skies," she whispered throatily.

Somehow Pauly's self-conscious pose symbolized for me San Francisco's reaction during the following weeks. We had several two- and three-hour blackouts during the first week, and as far as I could see everyone loved them. They found that conversation in a pitch-dark room grows easier and more intimate, and that danger is titillating as well as frightening. Everyone rushed out to get glamorous civilian defense jobs.



The papers were full of pictures of what you should carry in a blackout — flashlight, rope, knife, scissors, bandages. Dutifully I gathered these items, but I only use them once. At 3 o'clock one morning, I leapt out of bed when the siren blew, tore into my blue jeans and my dirty old sneakers, put on a red turtle-neck sweater and the jacket of a ski suit, looped the rope to my belt, stuffed the scissors, knife and bandages in various pockets, and as an afterthought tucked in a lipstick and a dollar bill. Then, not knowing what else to do, I called up Val, the girl who lived in a garden apartment around the corner.

"Come on down," she said. "Jean is here and Charles and Bob are coming over."

Weighed down with paraphernalia, but feeling competent for any emergency, I groped my way down to her house and stumbled into the candlelit room. Bob and Charles were already there, complete with a jug of red wine, and Jean and Val were very much there. Val wore a pink taffeta hostess gown with a little pink ribbon in her hair, and Jean looked frail and feminine in a trailing white negligée. There was I, looking like a bloated lumberjack.

Val and I stood at the French window, and when some Navy boys she knew passed by she introduced me to them. "You must be an Englishman," one of them said politely. "I've never heard Margaret used as a man's first name in America."

I casually turned sideways and a moment later in the faint starlight saw his eyes pop and had the satisfaction of a muttered apology before he beat a quick retreat. The next day I went shopping and bought a pale blue negligée, for use in blackouts.

San Francisco was frightened of bombs and fires of course, and so was I, for a while.

No one else seemed particularly concerned about mob hysteria or unjust persecution, and it took me several months to realize that their unconcern was justified. Wars change and people change, and this time San Franciscans seemed more interested in learning about splints and bandages and discussing how the war would affect the city than they did in changing the names of streets and cabbages. After a while conversation veered from talk of excursions and alarms back to the ballet, the symphony, the Picasso show at the museum, and I was lulled.





# ART & CULTURE REPORT



By Richard Zimmerman  
Chair, Art & Culture Committee

## Coit Tower Murals

Emmy Lou Packard once described Coit Tower as “One of the most beautiful art museums in San Francisco.” After the recent restoration of the murals, the first floor of the tower was returned to its museum-like quality . . . at least for a few days. Mural damage is now evident on the Ray Boynton mural near the entrance to the elevator lobby. This is probably the most heavily trafficked area in the tower. Even though more personnel are on duty, rules posted at the door are not enforced. It is not unusual to see someone with a backpack on or leaning on a mural when visiting the tower. An additional problem might be water damage on one of the murals. The Art Commission says this “May be residual efflorescence in a known area of previous water damage.” They are monitoring the mural. As a museum, and not just a money-raising elevator ride, it is important to have a guard staff, as do most museums. This would help minimize any negative impact of visitors, and be a benign reminder of the value and importance of the artwork.

## Kamiya Salon

The Salon featuring Gary Kamiya, author of the best-selling book, “Cool Gray City of Love – 49 Views of San Francisco,” was a sold-out hit. The Salon filled Canessa Gallery to capacity with an enthralled audi-

ence. Kamiya’s readings included the chapter Genius Loci that begins, “Telegraph Hill is quintessential San Francisco.” No one from the audience disagreed. Special thanks to Zach Stewart, of Canessa Gallery, for hosting the event and to Gary Kamiya for his outstanding presentation.

## Upcoming Salon

Our next Salon features author David Talbot reading from his best-selling book, “Season of the Witch – Enchantment, Terror and Deliverance in the City of Love.” “Season of the Witch,” a news-driven history of San Francisco, reports on the 20 years between the Summer of Love in 1967 and the early 1980s. A must-read, the riveting book examines in detail events such as the Zodiac killer, the Moscone-Milk assassinations, the horrific People’s Temple mass suicide and the people involved in those events. The “Enchantment” section is a more fun read as it details the “hippie” era.

David Talbot is the co-founder of *Salon.com* as well as a journalist and author. For details and how to preregister for the Salon, see the graphic or go to <http://www.thd.org/art-and-culture>. **Next Meeting:** The Art & Culture Committee will meet January 15, at 7 p.m., Canessa Gallery, 708 Montgomery St. Join us.



“Season of the Witch” By David Talbot

The THD Art and Culture Committee presents author **David Talbot** reading from his best selling book “Season of the Witch.” The author will be available to sign books.

**When:** January 29, 7pm

**Where:** Canessa Gallery  
708 Montgomery St

**Cost:** \$10/each

Due to limited seating, registration is required.

Register and pay using Paypal at [thd.org/art-and-culture](http://thd.org/art-and-culture) or send a check with name and number of attendees(maximum of four) to **Telegraph Hill Dwellers A and C Talbot Salon P.O. Box 330159 San Francisco CA 94133**. Register by Jan. 26 to assure a place. Registrations processed in the order received.




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**THE STATION**



Hill Award” at our annual holiday party at Original Joe’s on December 6. Thank you, Dave, for all of your hard work, sage wisdom and jovial spirit. We will miss you. To watch the segment, the “Stairways of Telegraph Hill where streets were never built” go to: <http://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/Telegraph-Hill-Garbage-Collector-Has-His-Ups-and-Downs-271461251.html>.



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# THD COMMITTEES NEED YOU

Get involved in our neighborhood and make a difference! Contact a THD committee and help keep the Hill a special place to live.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

Art & Culture: Richard Zimmerman (Chair) Contact Richard at [Richard.Zimmerman@thd.org](mailto:Richard.Zimmerman@thd.org)

Budget: John Reed (Chair) Contact John at [John.Reed@thd.org](mailto:John.Reed@thd.org)

Membership: Tom Noyes (Chair) Contact Tom at [Tom.Noyes@thd.org](mailto:Tom.Noyes@thd.org)

Neighborhood Safety: Mike Madrid (Chair) Contact Mike at [Mike.Madrid@thd.org](mailto:Mike.Madrid@thd.org)

Oral History Project: TBD

Parking/Transportation/Subway: TBD

Parks, Trees, & Birds: Carlo Arreglo & Judy Irving (Co-Chairs)

Contact Carlo at [Carlo.Arreglo@thd.org](mailto:Carlo.Arreglo@thd.org), Contact Judy at [Judy.Irving@thd.org](mailto:Judy.Irving@thd.org)

Planning & Zoning: Nancy Shanahan & Mary Lipian (Co-chairs)

Contact Nancy at [Nancy.Shanahan@thd.org](mailto:Nancy.Shanahan@thd.org), Contact Mary at [Mary.Lipian@thd.org](mailto:Mary.Lipian@thd.org)

Semaphore: Catherine Accardi (Editor) Contact Catherine at [Catherine.Accardi@thd.org](mailto:Catherine.Accardi@thd.org)

Social & Programs: TBD

Waterfront: Jon Golinger (Chair) Contact Jon at [Jon.Golinger@thd.org](mailto:Jon.Golinger@thd.org)

## LIAISONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Central Police District Community Advisory Board: Mike Madrid

Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods: Paul Weber, Merle Goldstone (Alternate)

Friends of Washington Square Liaison: TBD

Neighborhood Network Liaison: Gerry Crowley

Northeast Waterfront Advisory Group Member: Jon Golinger

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**WEB SITE = [www.thd.org](http://www.thd.org)**

Visit the THD website to explore a wealth of neighborhood history and get the latest information about what's happening on the Hill.

**TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS**

***Schedules of Committee Meetings***

PLANNING & ZONING: Last Thursdays. Call for time and location. 986-7070, 563-3494, 391-5652.

Look to the THD website for information on THD events. **Log on to <http://www.thd.org>**

***THD Welcomes New Members***  
**JOIN NOW**

## NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

## For a Voice in Your Neighborhood Join Telegraph Hill Dwellers.

Sign Up or Sign a Friend Up as a member of Telegraph Hill Dwellers. Complete and mail to THD, PO Box 330159, SF, CA 94133

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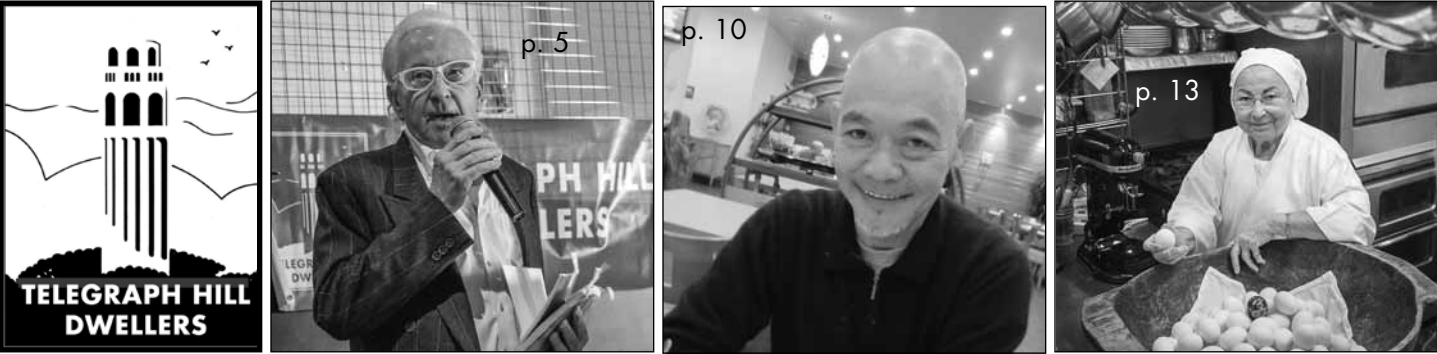
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THE SEMAPHORE

#208

Winter 2015

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Farewell to Café Divine

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